DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 358 485 CS 213 911

AUTHOR Moddelmog, Debra A.
TITLE Readers and Mythic Signs: The Oedipus Myth in Twentieth-Century Fiction.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-8093-1846-6
PUB DATE 93
NOTE 188p.
AVAILABLE FROM Order Department, Southern Illinois University Press, P.O. Box 3697, Carbondale, IL 62902-3697 ($24.95 plus $2.75 postage/handling).
PUB TYPE Viewpoints (Opinion/Position Papers, Essays, etc.) (120) -- Books (010)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS *Fiction; Higher Education; *Literary Criticism; *Literary Genres; *Mythology; Reader Response; Reader Text Relationship; *Twentieth Century Literature
IDENTIFIERS Aesthetic Reading; Freud (Sigmund); *Interpretive Validity; Oedipus Rex; Poetics; Response to Literature

ABSTRACT

Offering a poetics for myth in 20th century fiction, this book argues that the nature of myth is to inspire interpretation, that every myth carries with it an intertextual body of theories regarding its meaning and yet remains capable of evoking new meaning. The book further argues that myth, when used in fiction, functions like a language, with the reader/student attempting to negotiate meaning for the myth or its key actions, its mythemes, while at the same time responding to the interpretive cues of the text itself. Chapters in the book are: (1) Myths and Their Signs; (2) A Poetics for Myth in Fiction; (3) The Power of the Solitary Mytheme: The Anti-Sphinx of Alternative Wastelands; (4) Mythemes and Questions of Genre: The Blindness of the Private Eye in Antidetective Fiction; (5) Reading Myths and Mythemes after Freud: From Oedipal Incest to Oedipal Insight; and (6) The Epistemology of the Oedipus Myth. (RS)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****